



FEMA

Disaster News

October 13, 2004

FEMA-1526-DR-WI-NR17

Contact:

FEMA Gene Romano 614-890-8239

WEM Lori Getter 608-242-3239

SBA Matt Young 404-347-3771

Disaster Damages between May 7-18, 2004 Now Eligible for Federal-State Assistance

MADISON, WIS. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that it has reopened and extended the incident period for those affected by this past spring's severe storms, tornadoes and flooding. The decision to reopen the disaster will allow Wisconsin residents, business owners, and local governments who suffered damages from the severe weather between May 7 to 18, 2004 to apply for federal and state disaster assistance.

The decision was based on a review of damage information gathered by federal and state recovery officials and research data provided by the U.S. National Weather Service. The initial incident period for filing an application for disaster assistance was for damage caused by storms that impacted the areas from May 19 to July 3.

Today's announcement means that individuals who suffered damages between May 7-18 can begin the disaster application process by calling the toll-free registration number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired**. The toll-free telephone numbers are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Individuals with Internet access now have the option to apply on the agency's website at <http://www.fema.gov>, where valuable recovery information is also available. They may be eligible for grants and low-interest loans.

Individual Assistance to aid homeowners, renters and business owners is available in the following counties: Adams, Brown, Calumet, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Shawano, Sheboygan, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago and Wood.

Those disaster victims who had damages during the original incident period of May 19 through July 3 do not need to reapply. However, if they had losses during the new earlier period (May 7-18) that were not considered, they should contact the FEMA Helpline at the same toll-free numbers 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 to report these specific damages.

Under the amendment, public assistance is also available to local and tribal governments and certain qualifying private non-profit organizations in Adams, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Vernon, and Winnebago Counties.

-MORE-

DISASTER ASSISTANCE, Page 2

This will help reimburse eligible infrastructure costs associated with the storm and flood damages that occurred from May 7-18. Public Assistance grants are 75% funded by FEMA and 12.5% by the State of Wisconsin, with the remaining share covered by the applicant. Local governments in the designated counties should contact their county emergency management directors for further information on applying for assistance.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

###

DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INFORMATION

When disaster strikes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers a number of disaster assistance programs and coordinates the efforts of many other federal agencies that provide services to help people through the recovery process. The types of assistance that are available follow.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Programs

INDIVIDUALS and HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM: Housing assistance to individuals and families whose permanent homes were damaged or destroyed by the disaster. Types of aid include grants for temporary rental housing; essential repairs needed to make a residence safe, sanitary and functional; and, to meet serious disaster-related needs and expenses not covered by insurance or other programs, such as medical, dental, funeral, personal property, transportation and other FEMA-approved expenses.

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE: Weekly benefits to individuals out of work due to the disaster, including self-employed persons, farm owners and others not usually covered under regular unemployment insurance.

U.S. Small Business Administration Programs

HOME/PERSONAL PROPERTY DISASTER LOANS: Disaster loans to homeowners and renters for restoring or replacing underinsured or uninsured disaster-damaged real and personal property. (Available in declared counties.)

BUSINESS DISASTER LOANS: Disaster loans to repair or replace destroyed or damaged business facilities, inventory, machinery, equipment, etc. not covered by insurance. (Available to large and small businesses in declared counties.) Loans also may be available to small businesses for working capital to assist them during the disaster recovery period. (Available in declared and contiguous counties.)